phasing out of marketing incentive would be 10% in the first 2 years, 8% in the next 2 years, 6% in the subsequent 2 years and 4% in the seventh year.

Under the Marketing Incentive component of DDHPY, Rs. 5421.69 lakh, Rs. 3538.98 lakh and Rs. 4787.75 lakh have been released to various State Governments/Handloom agencies during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

BIFR/Government approval for lock out of 66 textiles mills

†4477. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that BIFR/Government have accorded their approval from 'lock out' of 66 textile mills;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking this step; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for the welfare of workers of these 66 textile mills which have been locked out?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) A Techno Economic Viability Study (TEVS) was undertaken in respect of 119 mills of National Textile Corporation (NTC) by the Textile Research Associations (TRAs). Based on the report of the study, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) & Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) formulated the Draft Rehabilitation Schemes for these mills under the 9 Subsidiary Corporations of NTC. The Study indicated 66 chronically sick mills as unviable which were recommended for closure. 53 viable mills were proposed to be rehabilitated through sale of surplus assets. Accordingly 65 unviable mills have been closed so far under the Industrial Dispute Act and one mill namely Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Pondicherry has been transferred to the State Government of Pondicherry.

(c) The Government has offered a liberal voluntary-retirement scheme to the workers affected by the closure of unviable mills of NTC. The scheme provided for increasing *ex-gratia* payment to the workers by 50% to 100% depending upon date of revision of wages. An amount of Rs. 1600 crore have been spent so far on the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Further, Department of Public Enterprises has formulated a welfare scheme for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

counseling, retraining and redeployment (CRR) of these workers. Under this scheme the employees are exposed to such programmes for gainful rehabilitation.

Promotion of handloom clothes

†4478. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the scheme of Government to promote handloom clothes in the wake of the termination of multifibre agreement in December, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): In the new Foreign Trade Policy 2004—09, handlooms has been identified as a thrust sector under Special Focus Initiatives and special facilities have been extended to the sector. Government has decided to develop a trademark for handloom on lines similar to "Woolmark" and "Silkmark", which will enable handloom products to develop a niche market with a distinct identity. Apart from the new Foreign Trade Policy, the following steps have been taken/are being taken to boost exports of handloom products:

(a) Organisation of Buyer-Seller Meets in important markets abroad;

(b) Participation in leading International fairs & exhibitions;

(c) Development & diversification of the product range;

(d) Dissemination of market intelligence and trade information through the Handloom Export Promotion Council;

(e) Availability of incentives to exports under the different export promotion schemes such as Duty Entitlement Pass Books Scheme/ Duty Drawback Scheme etc;

(f) Financial assistance provided under the Handloom Export Scheme for development of exportable products and publicity & marketing thereof;

(g) Assistance to Handloom Export Promotion Council under the MDA Scheme for market promotion activities.

Impact of removal of quotas of textiles

4479. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the impact of removal of quotas of textile so far;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi